

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A stamp or label between whose opposing major surfaces is mounted a thin radio frequency identification (RFID) package operative for transmitting and receiving RF identification signals.

Claim 2 (original): The invention defined in claim 1 wherein said RFID package is electrically powered by one or more thin flat battery cells, such as ones made of lithium/vanadium-oxide/copper, and connected to a thin integrated circuit transceiver chip to which a planar antenna is RF coupled.

Claim 3 (original): A postage stamp or shipping label having first and second spaced apart facing major surfaces between which is mounted a radio frequency identification (RFID) system operative to store identifying data therein representative of an article being mailed or shipped and to which the stamp or label is affixed, and said RFID system being operative to receive RF signals and store data therein and further being operative to transmit this data by way of RF signals which are transmitted to an interrogator upon request at the point of article mailing or shipment, points along a given shipment route, and upon reaching a point of destination.

Claim 4 (original): The stamp or label defined in claim 3 wherein said RFID system includes an integrated circuit chip having therein an RF transmitter, an RF receiver, a memory stage and a control logic; a thin flat battery connected to said IC chip; and a thin RF antenna disposed adjacent to said battery and IC chip and operative to transmit and receive RF signals and couple said RF signals to and from said RF chip during the interrogation thereof.

Claim 5 (original): The invention defined in claim 4 wherein said integrated circuit transceiver and said thin flat battery are mounted in side-by-side configuration on an underlying base material disposed on one of said facing major surfaces of said stamp or label.

Claim 6 (original): The invention defined in claim 5 wherein said thin RF antenna includes one or more thin metal strips mounted on said base material and connected to one or more terminals, respectively, on said IC chip for providing both RF transmission from and reception to said IC transceiver chip.

Claim 7 (original): The invention defined in claim 6 wherein said antenna is defined by said battery or a ground plane.

Claim 8 (original): The invention defined in claim 6 wherein said thin film battery includes a lithium anode layer and a conductive collector layer separated by a polymerized cathode electrolyte and separator layer.

Claim 9 (original): The invention defined in claim 8 wherein said cathode layer contains an oxide of vanadium or magnesium.

Claim 10 (original): The invention defined in claim 4 wherein the thickness of said thin flat battery is within the range of 1-10 mils, and may be small as a fraction of a mil.

Claim 11 (original): The invention defined in claim 9 wherein the thickness of said thin flat battery is within the range of 1-10 mils, and may be small as a fraction of a mil.

Claim 12 (original): The invention defined in claim 4 wherein said RFID IC chip is replaced with an electro-optical light operated IC chip and operated to propagate light of a given wavelength to an interrogator while also being powered by one or more thin flat battery cells less than 10 mils in thickness.

Claims 13-22 (cancelled).